

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended). Filtering process using ~~the~~ an electromechanical filtering unit ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a conduit capable of conducting electricity, at least one first electrode connectable to a high voltage power supply (EHT) and at least one second electrode having a plurality of discrete openings which is earthed wherein the electrodes are positioned within the conduit and connected to the conduit such that electricity can pass between the electrodes via the conduit, for removing solid catalyst particles suspended in a hydrocarbon liquid, said process comprising;

a. passing a the suspension through the conduit in a direction such that the first electrode is upstream of the second electrode with respect to the directional flow of the suspension,

b. generating an electric field within the conduit by connecting the first electrode to the high voltage supply,

such that the solid catalyst particles attach themselves to the second electrode and a hydrocarbon liquid with a reduced solids content passes through the conduit.

6-9 (canceled).

10 (currently amended). ~~Electromechanical~~ A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein in the electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the second electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

11 (currently amended). ~~Electromechanical~~ A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein in the electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the first electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

12 (canceled).

13 (currently amended). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein the solid catalyst particles are Fischer-Tropsch catalyst particles and the hydrocarbon liquid is a Fischer-Tropsch product stream.

14 (new). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein in the electromechanical filtering unit the conduit is cylindrical.

15 (new). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein in the electromechanical filtering unit the electrodes occupies almost substantially all the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

16 (new). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein the electromechanical filtering unit comprises at least two pair of 2 electrodes in series.

17 (new). A filtering process according to claim 13, wherein the solid catalyst particles are Fischer-Tropsch catalysts comprising at least one element selected from iron, cobalt and ruthenium.